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**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

# Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 51/30 A of 5 December 1996, the General Assembly expressed concern at the persisting special economic problems confronting States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions, in particular the States that border the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the other Danube riparian States and all other States affected by the consequences of the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the disruption of traditional transport and communication links in that part of Europe during the period when the sanctions were in force, and reaffirmed the need for a continuing concerted response from the international community to deal in a more effective manner with the special economic problems of the affected States.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly renewed its invitation to the international financial institutions to continue to pay special attention to the economic problems of the affected States and to consider ways and means for mobilizing and providing resources for mitigating the continuing negative impact of the consequences of the sanctions on those States. The Assembly renewed its request to the competent organs, programmes and United Nations specialized agencies to take into consideration the special needs of the affected States in programming their development activities and to consider the provision of assistance from their special programme resources. The Assembly renewed its appeal to all States to provide technical, financial and material assistance to the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions to mitigate the continuing adverse impact of the sanctions on their economies. The Assembly encouraged the affected States of the region to continue the process of multilateral regional cooperation, in such fields as the realization of cross-border infrastructure projects and promotion of trade and investment, thus alleviating the adverse impact of the sanctions.

3. Also in that resolution, the General Assembly urged the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations involved to take appropriate steps in order to broaden access for suppliers, particularly from the affected States, to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of the former Yugoslavia. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to increase the opportunity for the affected countries to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the former Yugoslavia. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to seek, on a regular basis, information from States, regional organizations and the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations system on action taken to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions, and to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-second session. The present report was prepared in response to that request.

# II. Action taken by the Security Council

4. The previous reports of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/48/573, A/49/356, A/50/423 and A/51/356) provided detailed information on the actions taken by the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies during the period from April 1993 to August 1996 in response to requests for assistance, under the provisions of Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, received from eight States (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Ukraine) affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The reports also reviewed the relevant decisions adopted by the Security Council and its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia with regard to the sanctions regime and its administration, particularly those measures that had a direct or indirect bearing on the neighbouring and other affected countries. Further pertinent steps taken by the Council and the Committee since September 1996 until the termination of the sanctions and of the activities of the Committee are outlined below.

5. By its resolution 1074 (1996) of 1 October 1996, the Security Council decided to terminate, with immediate effect, the measures suspended under the terms of its resolution 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995 (that is, the set of mandatory sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).[1] By the same resolution, the Council also decided to dissolve its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, once its report had been finalized. The Committee, having adopted its final report on 15 November 1996, was dissolved in accordance with paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1074 (1996).

6. By a letter dated 24 September 1996 (S/1996/776), the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia transmitted to the President of the Security Council the report of the Copenhagen Round Table on United Nations Sanctions in the Case of the Former Yugoslavia, held at

Copenhagen, on 24 and 25 June 1996, under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The report was presented to and considered by the Committee at its 142nd meeting, on 19 September 1996. At that meeting, members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the report, which was recognized as providing useful information on lessons learned from the Yugoslav sanctions experience on the basis of views expressed by representatives and experts from 29 countries, as well as from the United Nations Secretariat, humanitarian agencies, the European Union, OSCE, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Western European Union and the Danube Commission, who were directly involved in various aspects of the implementation of the sanctions and had participated in the Round Table. The Committee noted with interest various proposals and suggestions contained in the report. In its recommendations with regard to Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Round Table took note of the fact that this issue was currently being discussed by the General Assembly, and observed that the development of a mechanism for addressing the problems of third States affected by sanctions measures could further enhance the effectiveness of the sanctions regime (S/1996/776, annex, para. 88).

7. Under cover of a letter dated 15 November 1996 (S/1996/946), the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia transmitted to the President of the Security Council the third and final report of the Committee, containing a concise account of its work since 1993 until the termination of sanctions and a number of recommendations regarding the refining of the instrument of sanctions with a view to increasing its effectiveness as a peaceful means of conflict management and preventive action and minimizing its collateral humanitarian effects. In paragraph 42 of the report, the Committee referred to the actions taken by the Committee with regard to applications under Article 50 of the Charter that had already been covered in the reports of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of sanctions (A/48/573, A/49/356, A/50/423 and A/51/356). In paragraph 84 of the report, the Committee, in its observations and recommendations, "recognized that mitigating the adverse effects of sanctions on third countries is a serious issue that needs to be carefully considered in implementing economic sanctions".

# III. Information regarding economic assistance to the affected States

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, a note verbale from the Secretary-General was circulated to Governments on 26 March 1997, inviting them to communicate information on the matter. In addition, the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, as well as the regional organizations concerned, were invited to provide updated information on the activities undertaken by them on behalf of the neighbouring and other affected countries,[2] in response to the relevant provisions of the resolution. Substantive features of the replies received are summarized below.

## A. Communications received from States

9. As at 1 October 1997, the Secretary-General had received replies to the note verbale from seven Member States, namely, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan and Ukraine, as well as from the observer of the Holy See. In addition, Greece addressed a special communication to the Secretary-General concerning, *inter alia*, the issues referred to in General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, as outlined below.

### 1. Affected countries

10. By a note verbale dated 15 September 1997 (A/52/395), the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General a communication from the Government of Bulgaria on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, in which it was pointed out, *inter alia*, that, as a country with an economy oriented 80 per cent towards foreign markets, Bulgaria has been extremely vulnerable to the negative side effects of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. According to Bulgarian experts, the total amount of losses sustained by the Bulgarian economy owing to the strict implementation of the sanctions was estimated to exceed $8 billion. A substantial part of those losses resulted from the disruption of the traditional commercial route for Bulgarian exports to central and western Europe through Yugoslav territory, which caused a considerable scaling-down of economic relations with countries from that part of the continent. After the lifting of the sanctions the special economic problems resulting from the implementation of the sanctions regime coupled with the ongoing process of the difficult transition

from a centrally planned economy to a market economy continued to exert a negative impact on the overall social and economic situation in Bulgaria.

11. In the view of Bulgaria, the period of implementation of the sanctions has shown the lack of preparedness of the international community to respond in an adequate manner to difficulties and unforeseen negative consequences for third States neighbouring the target country. Bulgaria has not received adequate financial and technical assistance as compensation for its losses resulting from the implementation of the international sanctions regime. Bulgaria would appreciate the assistance rendered to companies from affected States in order to enable them to take part in the post-conflict reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bulgaria would also welcome projects aimed at improving the regional infrastructure, including long-term transport infrastructure projects. Bulgaria shared the opinion that the international community should show political will for the establishment of a complex and effective mechanism for overcoming the adverse impact of sanctions on seriously affected third States that comply strictly with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

12. By a letter dated 26 June 1997 (A/52/217-S/1997/507), the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General the Thessaloniki Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Countries of South-eastern Europe, held at Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9 and 10 June 1997. In the area of economic development, the Declaration puts particular emphasis on further development of bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation in such sectors as promotion of trade and investment, cross-border cooperation, and transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure. The Ministers reaffirmed, *inter alia*, that the rapid construction of the 10 pan-European transport corridors, taking due note of all relevant projects, measures and proposals, was an essential factor for the development of the whole region. The importance of interaction and coordination with other initiatives for regional cooperation, such as the Royaumont Initiative of the European Union, the South-east European Cooperative Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Central European Initiative, was also emphasized.

13. In the response by the Government of Ukraine regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, it was stated, *inter alia*, that Ukraine was one of the States most seriously affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. As a result of the sanctions, the Ukrainian economy has suffered and continues to suffer considerable losses; this has exacerbated the socio-economic situation of the country, which is currently in transition from a planned to a market economy. The consequences have been even more significant for a number of branches of industry that have traditionally had close economic ties to the region. Ukrainian experts estimate that the country has incurred direct losses totalling some $4.5 billion over the period of implementation of the Security Council resolutions in question.

14. The Government of Ukraine considers that General Assembly resolutions on economic assistance to the affected States have not been properly implemented, at least insofar as Ukraine is concerned. Ukraine has not received adequate technical, financial or material assistance as compensation for its losses. Nor can Ukraine point to any progress in adopting measures to provide affected countries with greater opportunities to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the former Yugoslavia. Ukraine believes that the international community should show political will for the establishment of a complex and effective mechanism for overcoming the adverse consequences for countries that conscientiously comply with the collective measures undertaken on behalf of the entire United Nations. Therefore, the Government of Ukraine considers that the issue of economic assistance to the affected States should remain on the agenda of the General Assembly.

### 2. Donor countries

15. The donor and other countries that replied to the Secretary-General's note verbale shared, in general, the concern about the persisting special economic problems of States adversely affected by the consequences of the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the disruption of traditional links in the region. Most of the countries recognized, in principle, the need to provide assistance to the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions to mitigate the continuing adverse effects of the sanctions on their economies, as well as the difficulties of the economic transformation process. Several States (France, Germany and Japan) provided specific information on their financial and technical assistance to the countries in question. In addition, Ecuador reported structural data on its bilateral trade with the affected countries. Estonia expressed the view that the international community should develop a sound methodology for evaluating the losses suffered by the affected States and establish a reliable and transparent procedure for assisting those States. The Holy See paid

particular attention to the humanitarian and ethical aspects of sanctions, with a view to alleviating the distress suffered by civilian populations that were either directly or indirectly affected by the imposition of such measures.

16. While France has not provided any direct compensation for the effects of sanctions on the countries neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, it has nevertheless contributed to alleviating the special economic problems of the affected States and to promoting sustainable development in the region. Financing at the bilateral level of technical cooperation projects in the affected countries amounts to 60 million francs annually. In addition, France has provided assistance to the countries in question through its participation in the European Union's assistance programmes such as PHARE (Pologne-Hongrie: Assistance à la restructuration économique) and in operations of the European Investment Bank.

17. Germany has reported that the Federal Government is actively supporting the political and economic reform process in central and eastern Europe, thus assisting in the economic recovery of the affected countries and indirectly helping them to overcome the problems arising as a result of the sanctions. An important role is played in this regard by the Federal Government's Transformation Programme and the complementary Consultancy Programme which provide advisory services in various areas (e.g. privatization, legal and economic reform, social policy and small and medium-sized businesses). Development assistance is provided to Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including financial and technical assistance for major infrastructure projects (e.g., the railroad link between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria and expansion of Tirana airport).

18. German support for the reform process in the countries of central and eastern Europe (excluding the Commonwealth of Independent States) totalled some 56.5 billion deutsche mark over the period from 1990 to 1996. Of this total, some DM 20.8 billion was provided to six countries adjacent to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, namely, Albania (DM 805.4 million), Bulgaria (DM 2,932.8 million), Croatia (DM 1,588.4 million), Hungary (DM 10,023.8 million), Romania (DM 5,056.3 million) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (DM 392.7 million). This amount includes DM 8.8 billion as Federal Government guarantees (for Hermes Export Credits, investments and untied financial credits), DM 3.8 billion as the German contribution to assistance programmes of the European Union and DM 5.4 billion of funds from the so-called Transferable Rouble Account. In addition, bilateral assistance provided to the six affected countries since 1990 totalled some DM 701 million.

19. Japan reported on its major activities since 1995 to provide economic assistance to five affected countries, namely, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. While those activities have not necessarily been undertaken in response to General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, the Government of Japan was of the view that they contribute in an effective manner to economic recovery in the affected countries, thus alleviating the effects of implementation of the sanctions.

20. Japan provided financial and material assistance to Albania (a grant of 300 million yen to increase food production in 1996, and emergency food aid and medical equipment valued at $670,000 in 1997, and two loans of 1,681 million yen and 3,124 million yen in 1995 and 1996, respectively, to improve electric power networks), to Bulgaria (a loan of 8,036 million yen for two projects to reduce industrial pollution in 1995 and a grant of 22 million yen for emergency food aid in 1997), to Hungary (two commercial credits of $100 million to foster small and medium-sized enterprises in 1995 and $50 million for the Export-Import Bank in 1996) and to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (two grants of 500 million yen each in 1995 and 1997 for non-project purposes, medical equipment valued at 550 million yen in 1995 and at 593 million yen in 1997, and grass-roots grants in the amount of 30 million yen for six projects). Technical assistance was rendered to the five affected countries in such forms as accepting trainees, dispatching experts and needs assessment missions, holding exhibitions and providing advisory services for project formulation and implementation.

## B. Response of the United Nations system

21. As at 1 October 1997, a total of 10 organizations of the United Nations system had provided updated information on their assistance activities in the affected States. Replies were received from the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Several United Nations programmes and funds, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also responded. The replies received from those components of the United Nations system indicate that all of them have

continued to provide development support to the affected countries in the period following the lifting of the sanctions. Such activities have contributed to economic and social well-being in the recipient countries and have thus indirectly offset some of the special economic problems resulting from the sanctions. However, in most instances, the activities were not directly related to the consequences of the sanctions and, for that reason, are not fully reflected in the following section of the report. The section focuses primarily on balance-of-payments support, transport and infrastructure development and assistance in trade and investment promotion provided to the neighbouring and other affected countries, thus alleviating their economic difficulties.

### 1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

22. FAO is currently implementing 30 technical assistance projects in seven affected countries — Albania (5), Bulgaria (2), Hungary (1), Romania (2), Slovakia (4), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1) and Uganda (15) — in such subsectors as crop development, livestock, fisheries, forestry, food policy, agricultural support systems, nutrition, rural development and natural resources management. In total, such assistance amounts to $19.7 million, of which $4.3 million is funded from the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, $12.3 million from bilateral sources and $2.7 million from other multilateral sources. In addition, the FAO Investment Centre has assisted in the identification and preparation of investment projects in several affected countries (e.g., Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda) for funding by the World Bank and regional development banks. Moreover, the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System has undertaken continuous monitoring and regular reporting on the food supply/utilization situation and outlook in the affected countries. Specific activities in 1997 include food needs/supply assessment missions dispatched to Bulgaria and Uganda, and a special food alert issued for Albania.

### 2. World Bank

23. The World Bank has been carrying out wide-ranging assistance activities in the countries of central and eastern Europe affected by the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Those activities encompass such areas as development of private enterprises and commercial banks, improvement of infrastructure links with neighbouring countries, alleviation of balance-of-payments problems, and support to social safety nets, including health, education and employment policies.

24. In Albania, the Bank has supported improvements in infrastructure for the development of formal trade, such as roads and ports. This included reconstruction of the East-West corridor, through the transport and infrastructure credit for 18 million special drawing rights (SDRs) (approved in May 1993) and the national roads credit for SDR 25 million (approved in June 1996). The Bank's lending programme in the country is currently being reviewed in the light of recent social and political developments.

25. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bank continued to follow an assistance strategy aimed at jump-starting economic activity through support of a wide range of economic sectors. In the first half of 1996, the Bank supported a series of immediate assistance programmes that were financed from a special $150 million trust fund. Seven emergency operations, approved in February-May 1996, included rebuilding government institutions and funding a line of credit to small business, as well as supporting rehabilitation in the agriculture, water and sanitation, transport, health, education and heating sectors. Since the beginning of regular Bank lending to the country in June 1996, $207.6 million from International Development Association (IDA) resources have been committed to support nine additional operations focused on landmine clearing, electric power reconstruction, repairs to housing, hospitals and schools, establishment of a guarantee facility for industry, recovery of employment through public works, retraining and loans to microbusiness. In September 1996, the Bank approved a transition assistance credit in order to support the initial phase of the Government's macroeconomic and institutional reforms. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has also committed $2 million to an equity fund and $0.7 million for a microbusiness project. At the end of June 1997, contracts signed using Bank-administered funds totalled 1,753, for a value of $283 million. In late 1997 and beyond, the Bank's assistance strategy in the country will shift the emphasis from emergency reconstruction to ensuring sustainability and the medium- to long-term viability of policies and investments. Significant donor resources will be needed over the next several years.

26. In Bulgaria, Bank assistance in the past year focused on balance-of-payments support, enterprise restructuring and private-sector development. A $30 million rehabilitation loan and a $40 million critical imports rehabilitation loan were approved in August 1996 and in May 1997, respectively, to ease social tension and economic deprivation resulting from the economic restructuring programme. An enterprise sector adjustment loan is currently in preparation and will focus on macroeconomic stabilization, enterprise

financial discipline, privatization and overcoming insolvency of the banking sector.

27. In Hungary, the Bank supported the Government's stabilization programme of March 1995, and its posterior consolidation, with a $7.8 million public finance management project and a $225 million enterprise and financial sector adjustment loan (approved in March 1997). In addition, a public sector reform project is currently in preparation.

28. In Romania, Bank lending has focused on facilitating private enterprise development (through a $280 million financial and enterprise sector adjustment loan approved in January 1996) and to a lesser extent on infrastructure improvement (through power sector, transport and railway rehabilitation projects). In the near future, the Bank will provide support to the new Government's actions towards macroeconomic stabilization.

29. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, an exceptional allocation of concessional IDA resources was made available for quick-disbursing operations in balance-of-payments support and investment programmes. Thus, retroactive financing was provided for a transit facilitation project (a $24 million IDA credit approved in April 1995) to upgrade essential infrastructure and improve border crossings with Albania and Bulgaria on the East-West corridor. New commitments equivalent to $60 million were made in July 1996 and May 1997, including two operations in support of private-sector activities.

### 3. International Monetary Fund

30. Since the beginning of 1995, all eight countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations in connection with the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Ukraine — have made use of Fund resources in support of programmes aimed at addressing their balance-of-payments difficulties. From June 1996 to June 1997, the Fund approved additional financial assistance for Bulgaria, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia totalling $1.3 billion. Resources were committed under new standby arrangements (total access $623.3 million) and under the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility ($149.4 million) for Bulgaria; a new standby arrangement for Romania ($418.5 million); and under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($75.7 million).

31. From May 1992 to June 1997, total Fund disbursements to the eight affected countries amounted to $4.1 billion, an increase of $1.2 billion over the past year. Most of the affected countries were eligible for drawings under special Fund facilities, such as the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (Albania ($43.1 million), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($12.6 million) and Uganda ($167.3 million)); the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility (Bulgaria ($149.4 million)); and the Systemic Transformation Facility (Bulgaria ($161.3 million), Romania ($261.7 million), Slovakia ($178.7 million), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($34.4 million) and Ukraine ($692.2 million)). Moreover, a total of $1.6 billion in additional or remaining amounts has already been approved by the Fund's Executive Board, and can be disbursed when the timetable and conditions specified under the arrangements have been met.

32. In providing financial assistance to the affected countries, the Fund has continued to take into account, *inter alia*, the strength of their economic policies and their balance-of-payments needs, including estimates of the adverse effects of the sanctions. As with all its members, the Fund also continues to assist the affected countries through policy advice and technical assistance, as appropriate, to help them overcome remaining economic difficulties.

### 4. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

33. UNIDO has been implementing a number of technical assistance projects for the promotion of investments, enhancement of employment opportunities and development of private enterprises in the affected countries of the region. Those activities are financed from UNIDO resources, UNDP funds, trust funds and special purpose contributions to the Industrial Development Fund. Salient examples of recent and current operations in the area include the organization of technology markets or business forums for small- and medium-sized industries in Slovakia and Ukraine, establishment of industrial subcontracting and partnership exchanges in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the setting up of business promotion and development centres in Romania and Slovenia, national institutional capacity-building and preparation of an "investor's guide" for Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova. In addition, UNIDO has provided emergency assistance to the "Klas" cereal-processing complex in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and timber-frame building technology and 2,000 basic housing units as emergency shelter in Croatia.

### 5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

34. Several affected countries have benefited from UNCTAD technical assistance programmes in the area of trade and investment promotion. The UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data has recently been installed in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda. Within the UNCTAD Global Trade Point Network, national trade points are being established in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Uganda, with a view to enhancing their participation in international trade. UNCTAD's computer-based technical cooperation package, the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System, is being installed in Romania, Uganda and Ukraine. Training programmes for managers responsible for international and maritime trade are being carried out in Romania.

35. In addition, UNCTAD assisted the Albanian Centre for Foreign Investment Promotion in the preparation of three sector studies which were presented at the third International Conference on Foreign Direct Investment Promotion, held at Tirana in November 1996. The project continued in the current year to provide training in investment promotion to senior officials through in-house workshops and overseas study tours.

### 6. United Nations Development Programme

36. UNDP has continued with its regional project providing assistance to improve alternative land routes around the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, thus helping to minimize the adverse consequences of sanctions on neighbouring countries. The last of the outstanding works under this project, the facilities at the border between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, are under way. However, already completed works on the Albanian side of its border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the port of Dürres sustained heavy damage during the recent crisis in Albania.

37. The Country Cooperation Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina was approved in May 1997. The UNDP programme strategy focuses resources available for contributing to the reconstruction process in the country on three groups of projects: (a) integrated, multisectoral, area-based development projects; (b) sectoral assistance projects; and (c) policy and advisory support projects. By introducing a multi-ethnic, community focus to the assistance process, and by promoting local ownership of development, the UNDP programme has elicited wide support, in particular from donors. To date, more than $24.8 million in both core and non-core resources has been programmed in the country.

38. The Country Cooperation Framework for Croatia was approved in March 1997. The centrepiece of UNDP assistance to the country is a multisectoral area development project operating in Sibenik County and in three municipalities in Western Slavonia. The project aims to meet needs in the fields of employment, production, agriculture, health and community infrastructure using a participatory area development approach. Based on a similar approach, a project is currently being formulated for Eastern Slavonia funded by a $2 million contribution from Belgium.

39. The Country Cooperation Framework for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was approved in September 1997. Areas identified for programming are education, support to small- and medium-sized enterprises, environment and reform of the social sector. The Government has allocated a portion of its independence bonus for the establishment of a programme support unit in the country.

40. UNDP has taken into consideration the special needs of other affected countries, namely, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine, in the development strategies outlined in the respective country cooperation frameworks approved in 1997. Given the recent political developments in Albania, most UNDP-assisted projects in the country have been halted and are currently being reviewed.

## C. Follow-up to regional initiatives and assistance arrangements

41. The Special Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Officials, convened by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at Vienna in early 1994, resulted in a viable approach to supporting, at the bilateral and multilateral levels, several important infrastructure projects in the affected countries and integrating them into a longer-term regional perspective of economic development (see A/49/356, paras. 68-75). Updated information on the implementation of the donor commitments reached at the Vienna meeting and its follow-up, provided by the European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), is summarized below.

### 1. European Union

42. The European Union has continued to support, mainly through the PHARE budget, the activities related to border-

crossing infrastructure and customs facilitation in the Balkan region. It should be recalled that budget allocation for 1995 (ECU 83.5 million) for border-crossing infrastructure projects in the region was somewhat lower than it had been in 1994 (ECU 98.4 million). However, this should be seen in the light of the improved situation in terms of reduced waiting time (on the average, from 12 to 3 hours) at the most important border crossings, which clearly indicates that the previous infrastructural investments have had positive results. Infrastructure projects financed under the 1995 budget were, to a large extent, a continuation of projects initiated in previous years for road rehabilitation and upgrading, border-crossing modernization and supply of customs control and communication equipment in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania (see A/50/423, para. 64). In 1996, the European Union developed a regional approach in order to facilitate the development of good-neighbourly relations between the countries of the region. Since 1996, the Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) programme has also been in a position to finance small-scale investments in infrastructure projects under its yearly ECU 30 million cross-border cooperation programme.

43. In follow-up to European Union activities during the previous reporting period (see A/51/356, paras. 56-57), it has been agreed that the measures to ease the border-crossing bottlenecks could be financed through the PHARE Transit Facilitation and Customs Modernization Programme, which has a total budget of ECU 91 million for the period 1995-1999. In addition, under a separate programme, by the end of 1996, customs equipment worth about ECU 2 million was delivered to several countries involved in support of the two Balkan customs corridors.

### 2. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

44. Within its country strategies and operational programmes, EBRD has considered the priorities and special needs of the affected countries of the region, with due regard to the financing available to them from other sources, both bilateral and multilateral. In this connection, it should be recalled that EBRD has recently approved a number of infrastructure development and trade finance projects in six affected countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine) for a total amount of more than ECU 2.1 billion (see A/51/356, para. 58).

## IV. Participation by the affected States in reconstruction and rehabilitation of the crisis-stricken areas in the former Yugoslavia

45. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/30 A, called upon the United Nations system to broaden access for suppliers, particularly from the affected countries, to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the former Yugoslavia. In that regard, updated information was received from the World Bank, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR, as well as from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat (see A/51/356, paras. 59-70).

### A. Involvement in rendering humanitarian assistance

46. The fourth United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, covering the period from January to December 1997, provides a humanitarian assistance programme valued at $554.6 million. As outlined in the appeal, the United Nations programme for the region has been guided by four main objectives: (a) to accelerate the search for the repatriation, return and local reintegration of refugees and displaced persons; (b) to gradually phase down general humanitarian relief assistance through improved targeting of most vulnerable groups in the region; (c) to increase support for capacity-building of governmental and non-governmental institutions; and (d) to step up humanitarian demining activities. The efforts made by the international community in 1996-1997 have resulted in concrete improvements in many sectors, especially housing and infrastructure rehabilitation in a significant number of affected areas. In that light, agency programming through 1997 has evolved to reflect several new developments, including an increased orientation towards reconstruction projects and confidence-building measures, support for capacity-building of local authorities in the health, education and social welfare sectors, improved targeting of beneficiaries and more consolidated and integrated projects oriented towards employment/income generation. Thus far, the appeal has garnered approximately 50 per cent of total funding requirements. It remains critical that strong donor support be maintained to enable the humanitarian agencies

involved in the process to ensure the delivery of the humanitarian assistance programme, including, as appropriate, through broadening access for suppliers, particularly from the neighbouring and other affected countries of the region.

### 1. United Nations Children's Fund

47. UNICEF has been present in the former Yugoslavia since 1991 with emergency interventions and a regular country programme since 1994. With the approval, as appropriate, of the Security Council Sanctions Committee, UNICEF was able to provide the required humanitarian assistance to the country's children during the entire period in which the sanctions were in effect. UNICEF programme assistance to the neighbouring and other countries of the region has been intended to support and strengthen their social sector, in order to ameliorate the impact of primarily economic transition, as well as of external factors such as the war and sanctions related to the former Yugoslavia, on children and women. As a notable example of sanctions-related assistance, UNICEF has provided to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia vaccines that were formerly procured from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as essential drugs, support to education and other social services for children and women.

48. Since 1993, UNICEF has conducted extensive supply procurement activities in the neighbouring and other affected countries. Those activities included both procurement of supplies for use in the Fund's emergency and regular programmes in the four countries of the former Yugoslavia, and procurement for the other global activities of UNICEF on behalf of children. The amounts procured during the period from 1993 to 1996 from the following affected countries are: Albania ($74,800); Austria ($18.1 million); Bulgaria ($147,900); the Czech Republic and Slovakia ($4.6 million); Germany ($95.6 million); Greece ($50,600); Hungary ($5.3 million); the Republic of Moldova ($86,600); Romania ($470,100); the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($178,000) and Uganda ($6.2 million).

### 2. World Food Programme

49. In the period following the lifting of the sanctions regime, and unrelated thereto, WFP provided emergency food assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (556 tons of mixed food items worth $475,000) and to people affected by the civil strife and destitution in Albania (7,440 tons of mixed food items worth $3.7 million). In addition, WFP has continued to purchase, on the basis of international competitive tenders, foodstuffs from the countries of the region for its emergency feeding operations, particularly in the former Yugoslavia. During the last 12 months, WFP purchased 2,200 tons of food commodities in Hungary ($360,000) and about 4,000 tons of food items in Germany ($2.5 million). WFP is continuously looking into the possibilities for purchases from the region for food aid requirements for the remainder of 1997 and thereafter.

### 3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

50. In 1996-1997, UNHCR continued to promote both local and regional procurement of supplies and services for its programmes in the former Yugoslavia. All potential and qualified suppliers in the countries of the region (Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovakia) were invited to submit quotations, in compliance with competitive bidding procedures, for the procurement of supplies and relief items necessary for UNHCR programmes in the former Yugoslavia. From May 1996 to June 1997, procurement contracts were awarded to suppliers in the countries of the region for the following items: blankets from Poland and Germany ($1,845,990); office equipment from Austria ($283,140); news wire services from Austria ($24,936); soap from Italy ($493,130); transport and similar services from Italy ($565,790) and Austria ($343,715).

## B. Access to supply for the United Nations peacekeeping missions

51. Over the reporting period, the four United Nations peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia continued to play a crucial role in the international community's efforts to foster peace in the region. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) carried out civilian functions mandated by the Security Council, in particular the monitoring of the local police forces. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) continued to monitor the situation on the peninsula. During its second year of operation, the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) successfully held elections in the region, an essential step for further progress in the peaceful reintegration of the region, and an important milestone for the legitimate representation of the local population in the Croatian constitutional and legal system. The United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has continued to

implement all of its mandates in a cost-effective and coordinated manner.

52. In the context described above, the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia have continued to issue tenders for their requirements to prospective vendors in all European countries, including those affected by the sanctions. During the period from July 1996 to June 1997, such local procurement was made, *inter alia*, from Austria (48 purchase orders, totalling $515,851), Hungary (5 orders, totalling $26,836), Italy (39 orders, totalling $826,035), Slovakia (4 orders, totalling $33,099), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (133 orders, totalling $2,497,623) and Turkey (1 order of $158,050).

53. Two other sources of access for suppliers from the affected countries to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia are commercial procurement and letters of assist to Governments through United Nations Headquarters. From July 1996 to June 1997, commercial Headquarters procurement was made, *inter alia*, from Austria (1 purchase order of $63,709), Bulgaria (2 orders, totalling $118,000), Romania (3 orders, totalling $266,500) and Ukraine (6 orders, totalling $1,535,209). Under letters of assist from June 1996 to September 1997, the distribution of requisitions included one from Austria (for $4,700), nine from the Czech Republic ($332,864), four from Germany ($6,488,172), 16 from Slovakia ($2,020,806), 10 from Turkey ($526,895) and 14 from Ukraine ($5,346,284). Further possible supplies from the affected countries to peacekeeping missions in the region can be foreseen.

## C. Contribution to reconstruction and development efforts

54. Following the signing of the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement in November/December 1995, the international community endorsed a $5.1 billion Priority Reconstruction and Recovery Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996-1999). The European Commission and the World Bank assumed the lead role in coordinating donor support and providing finance for the reconstruction effort. Two donor conferences co-hosted by the Commission and the Bank at Brussels, in December 1995 and April 1996, led to total commitments of over $1.9 billion in concessional assistance by some 60 bilateral and multilateral donors for immediate reconstruction activities in the country in 1996. The funds committed by the Commission and the Bank to meet the external financing requirements for 1996 amounted to some $430 million and $358 million, respectively. On the whole, commitments for multilaterally administered projects accounted for $1.2 billion, or 61 per cent of the total commitments for reconstruction activities, while the remaining $739 million was committed on a bilateral basis. An additional $132 million was earmarked for peace implementation activities. By the end of 1996, more than half of the total commitments from all sources ($1.1 billion, or 54 per cent) was disbursed and two thirds of committed donor assistance for financing civil works, goods and services, as well as other critical needs ($1.4 billion, or 67 per cent) was being implemented, making the peace dividend tangible. An estimated $914 million was actually expended on the ground.

55. All countries of the region, including all the successor republics of the former Yugoslavia and other countries affected by the sanctions, participated in the conferences and pledged to mobilize funds or provide in-kind assistance for the reconstruction effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As at the end of 1996, all such pledges by the affected countries were fully committed, while in many cases their commitments exceeded the originally pledged amounts. Moreover, the bulk of the funds committed by the countries of this group were either under implementation or had been disbursed by the end of 1996. Among bilateral donors, committed amounts were fully or largely disbursed, *inter alia*, by Albania ($20,000), Austria ($16.5 million), Bulgaria ($30,000), Croatia ($7 million), the Czech Republic ($6.3 million), Germany ($38.6 million), Greece ($7 million), Hungary ($1 million), Italy ($11.4 million), Slovakia ($1.5 million), Slovenia ($3.1 million) and Turkey ($2.7 million). The nature of the contributions was broadly consistent with the 1996 programme, reflecting the high priority both the authorities and the donors attached to the areas of housing, industry/finance and government/social support, where larger-than-envisaged donor assistance gave implementation an important head start. While overall financing needs were met, certain mismatches between sectoral requirements and funding occurred, most notably in rehabilitation of transport and energy infrastructure. On the ground, international agencies were instrumental in helping establish local capacity to implement and oversee the reconstruction effort (e.g., in funding recurrent and local costs by employing local companies and personnel to the extent possible). However, specific data on procurement of products and services from neighbouring and other affected countries were not available.

56. A third donor conference, held in Brussels on 23 and 24 July 1997, mobilized a further $1.1 billion in donor support for reconstruction and some $140 million for peace implementation activities in 1997. Part of those funds have

already been committed and major donors have already been engaged in the allocation of their pledges, since the beginning of the year. An estimated $1.4 billion will be needed to meet the 1997 reconstruction requirements in the following priority areas: (a) facilitating the return and reintegration of refugees (including housing, jobs and basic social services); (b) reconstruction of the war-devastated infrastructure (including energy, transport and communications); (c) rehabilitation of social sectors (including schools and health facilities); (d) employment creation through private and financial sector development; and (e) institution-building and policy reform to facilitate the country's transition to a market economy. The European Commission and the World Bank will continue their close partnership to mobilize donor financing for these priorities. The Bank will focus its resources on support for policy reforms, especially in the areas of public finance and private-sector development, as well as community development programmes and key infrastructure investments. The Commission will concentrate mainly on programmes to facilitate refugee return and reintegration. Other agencies playing an important role in coordinating support for the reconstruction effort on a sectoral basis are FAO, WHO, ILO, UNESCO and UNHCR, as well as UNDP.

57. The conference noted that the challenges of reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina remain formidable. On the country's side, cooperation between the entities and the different levels of government, sustainable government policies, good governance, including transparency and accountability in the use of donor funds, and strengthened local capacity are all essential for achieving results in the reconstruction effort. Similarly, on the donors' side, adequate and timely funding of the reconstruction programme on concessional terms, projects that address the priority needs and provide for appropriate regional allocation of resources, and strong donor coordination through the established task forces are also key to success. While significant donor resources will be required for the next several years, these inflows must progressively be complemented and eventually replaced by domestic resources and private foreign flows. While 1996 was a year of transition from emergency aid to reconstruction assistance that builds economic capacity, 1997 should mark a shift to sustainability as both an objective of, and a prerequisite for, donor support. In this context, donor-funded sustainable projects accompanied by policy and institutional reforms should lead to an open, restructured economy, increasingly integrated with the rest of Europe and capable of sustaining growth into the future.

# V. Conclusions

58. The actions taken by the Security Council to suspend and, subsequently, to terminate the economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have opened the way for the gradual resumption of economic relations with and especially transit traffic through the target country, thus considerably easing the burden on the neighbouring and other States of the region that have been adversely affected by the implementation of the sanctions during the period in which the sanctions regime was in effect. Accordingly, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia was dissolved in November 1996. As one of the lessons learned from the Yugoslav sanctions experience, the Committee, in its final report, recognized that mitigating the adverse effects of sanctions on third countries is a serious issue that needs to be carefully considered in implementing economic sanctions.

59. In their communications to the Secretary-General, two affected States (Bulgaria and Ukraine) have asserted that they have incurred significant economic losses as a result of the severance of economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and particularly the disruption of traditional transport links in the region during the period in which the sanctions were in force, and that they have not received adequate assistance as compensation for their losses. In view of the long-term impact of the sanctions on their overall economic and social situation, these States call upon the international community to show political will for the establishment of a complex and effective mechanism to address the special economic problems of the affected third States. Following the termination of the sanctions regime, particular importance is assigned to the need for enhancing regional economic cooperation, especially in the fields of transport and infrastructure development and trade and investment promotion, as well as facilitating participation of the affected countries in the reconstruction effort in the former Yugoslavia.

60. Because of the limited number of replies received by the Secretary-General from the donor States, it is not possible to assess fully the level of bilateral economic assistance provided to the affected countries in the period following the lifting of the sanctions. The communications received do not specifically indicate the assistance directly intended to address the special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions, but rather refer to the ongoing assistance activities by donors in support of the transition process in the affected countries of the region. Although many reported projects had not been intended as special assistance measures directly aimed at mitigating the

negative side effects of the sanctions regime and its consequences, they should have yielded indirect positive impact on the affected countries. Moreover, the continued donor support for the reconstruction process in the former Yugoslavia as well as other regional cooperation programmes should ultimately benefit all the countries of the region.

61. The relevant components of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, continue to implement, within their respective mandates, existing facilities and available resources, substantial programmes of financial and technical assistance in the affected countries. In response to the renewed appeals for special economic assistance, these programmes have been reviewed, as appropriate, in order to make them as responsive as possible to the particular problems of the countries concerned. Although the bulk of such activities were not directly related to the consequences of the sanctions, they have contributed to the economic recovery in the affected countries, thus indirectly offsetting some of their special economic problems resulting from the sanctions. However, new and additional financial resources from all potential funding sources continue to be needed to address a variety of persisting economic problems of the affected States, in particular the long-term effects of sanctions on their economies.

62. Specific concerns of the affected countries in the areas of transport and infrastructure development as well as trade and investment promotion have been pursued through special regional initiatives and assistance arrangements under the auspices of OSCE, the European Union and EBRD and in cooperation with other regional organizations. The European Union's PHARE and TACIS programmes have been crucial in financing a series of short-term projects for road rehabilitation and upgrading, border-crossing modernization and supply of customs control and communication equipment in the affected neighbouring countries. However, substantial additional resources are needed to carry out longer-term transport and infrastructure projects, which are particularly important for the functioning of the priority transport and customs corridors in the region. Within regional priorities, continued bilateral donor support, participation of regional development and investment banks and private-sector involvement would be essential for developing cross-border cooperation, upgrading infrastructure and promoting trade and investment in the Balkans.

63. The neighbouring and other affected countries should be encouraged to participate more actively in the international support for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts in the former Yugoslavia. As the focus of the United Nations humanitarian assistance programme in former Yugoslavia has shifted from an emergency relief operation to providing for the return of refugees and displaced persons and supporting capacity-building, these longer-term support projects open new possibilities for the suppliers from the neighbouring and other affected countries. Moreover, the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the region continue to issue tenders for meeting their requirements through commercial procurement and government service, which are open to all European countries, including those affected by the sanctions. Furthermore, in implementation of the economic reconstruction programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, effective mobilization and coordination of assistance and co-financing of projects under the auspices of multilateral agencies should facilitate appropriate regional allocation of resources and increase transparency in procurement of products and services, including procurement from neighbouring countries. The current emphasis placed by the international donor community on supporting sustainable investments and reforms in the country will help restore and promote further economic cooperation with and among all States of the former Yugoslavia as well as other countries in south-eastern Europe as an important contribution to stability and prosperity in the Balkan region.

*Notes*

[1] Specifically, the termination relates to the measures that were imposed by or reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 757 (1992), 787 (1992), 820 (1993), 942 (1994), 943 (1994), 988 (1995), 992 (1995), 1003 (1995) and 1015 (1995).

[2] Other affected countries, that referred on various occasions to their economic difficulties in connection with the sanctions regime, include Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey.

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# STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/195 A of 17 December 1997. In that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan and, inter alia, to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on actions taken pursuant to the resolution. The present report covers the period from the adoption of resolution 51/195 A to September 1997.

2. The General Assembly also demanded that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and honour their commitments regarding the safety and full freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and other international personnel and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies, as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan.

## II. EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

3. In its resolution 51/195 A, the General Assembly called upon the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1997.

4. The appeal called for US$ 133 million in assistance for internally displaced persons, mine clearance, voluntary repatriation, food aid, education, health care, agriculture, social programmes, shelter, water supply and coordination of relief and management support. The programmes contained in the appeal aimed at establishing nationwide mechanisms that would respond to both short-term emergency and long-term development needs such as those of basic relief, mine clearance, repatriation, safe drinking water, primary health care and urban and rural recovery.

5. As of early August 1997, a total of $38 million had been pledged and/or contributed to the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in response to the appeal. This represented 29 per cent of the total requirement. A new inter-agency consolidated appeal is expected to be launched in December 1997 for a further period of one year.

6. Humanitarian programmes continued to operate throughout Afghanistan, however, despite the fact that ongoing fighting and tension presented many difficulties. In addition, while treatment of women and girls has been questioned in Afghanistan in the past, during the reporting period, their condition in areas of the country under the Taliban control has become a matter of particular concern. Restrictions placed by the Taliban authorities have also adversely affected the United Nations projects that employ women, as well as those that directly target women and/or girls.

7. On 3 June 1997, the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs outlined a set of recommended policies and practical measures to promote the adherence by the authorities concerned to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to reverse policies that are in contravention of the relevant conventions. In this regard, it was recommended that the organizations of the United Nations system adopt a principle-centred approach to the gender issue in Afghanistan and disengage from certain programmes that were not in conformity with the policies aimed at eliminating discrimination (i.e. from those programmes that do not benefit men and women equally in participation and results). Those recommendations were endorsed by the Secretary-General and, on 26 June 1997, conveyed to the United Nations organizations and their implementing partners, requesting their cooperation in implementation and monitoring.

## A. Implementation of humanitarian programmes

### 1. Internally displaced persons

8. Continuous military activity and the presence of mines served as a hindrance to the safe return of internally displaced persons. Emergency assistance to facilitate their reintegration and longer-term capacity-building schemes were initiated and have remained a priority for the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

9. Since September 1996, approximately 200,000 persons have been displaced, in addition to the 1 million persons estimated to have been displaced previously. New internally displaced persons sought shelter with relatives in rural areas, which made their numbers difficult to estimate. Five camps, housing some 32,000 internally displaced persons and returning refugees, were established in Herat.

10. In addition to the ongoing conflict, the imposition of various regulations by the Taliban was a major factor in the increasing rate of displacement and exile, especially from Kabul. Many there were unwilling or unable to submit to the harsh rules imposed on them by the Taliban. A large number of families, which were headed by women, were unable to support themselves and their families because of the interdiction of women's employment. At the same time, women and girls could no longer receive education. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations faced constraints in undertaking needs assessments, humanitarian programmes and monitoring without the benefit of contributions provided by female national staff. This problem was particularly acute for projects targeting women, as the Taliban restrictions did not allow the activities previously performed by women to be carried out by male staff.

11. United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with non-governmental organizations, continue to support internally displaced persons scattered across Afghanistan through a variety of projects. The main sectors of activity are food, shelter and medicines distribution; rehabilitation and resettlement;

capacity-building, food-for-work, educational and self-help projects; infrastructure reconstruction; and demining.

## 2. Mine clearance

12. As refugees returned to Afghanistan from the neighbouring countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, new minefields were discovered, especially around the former front-line areas. An estimated 10 people were injured or killed by residual mines each day. It was projected that the rate of incidence would rise with the onset of winter, when many people, especially children, are likely to enter former areas of conflict in search of firewood and accidentally come across hidden mines.

13. The mine clearance programme, managed by the UNOCHA, is in its ninth year of activity. The demining programme is made up of four components: mine awareness, minefield survey and marking, mine clearance training and mine clearance. Eighteen provinces were covered by the mine clearance and minefield survey operations from four regional offices in Afghanistan. A number of non-governmental organizations work under the umbrella of the UNOCHA: three international non-governmental organizations (HALO Trust, Save The Children Fund USA, and Handicap International) and five local Afghan non-governmental organizations (the Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation, the Mine Clearance Planning Agency, the Demining Agency for Afghanistan, the Mine Detection Dog Centre and Afghan Technical Consultants). An Iranian non-governmental organization is conducting mine awareness training for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran who are returning home. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Afghan education drama project continues to broadcast mine- related messages through its widely popular radio drama series.

14. The target set for the end of 1997 is to clear 28 square kilometres of high priority mined areas and 20 square kilometres of former battlefield areas. The area cleared during the first six months of 1997 was 14.2 square kilometres, resulting in a total of 115 square kilometres of cleared mine areas since the beginning of the operation. The year's target for battlefield area clearance has been surpassed. Nonetheless, throughout the country, 140 square kilometres of land remain as high priority mined areas. To address this issue, seven additional survey teams were created to locate mines or unexploded bombs.

15. The mine awareness programme is designed to reduce casualties related to mines and other explosive devices by educating the public in the identification and avoidance of risks associated with living in a mine-contaminated environment. Some 307,293 people received mine awareness training during the period from January to June 1997. This was a significant increase over the number of people trained during the same period in 1996. Mine awareness training took place at various border exit stations and in camps for internally displaced persons, mosques and communities. United Nations personnel and personnel from non-governmental organizations were also given a course on mine awareness by the technical staff of the mine clearance programme.

16. Mine clearance training provides individuals and teams with the skills needed for the safe and efficient removal of explosive devices. This is achieved through the development and implementation of a sustainable training and technical development programme. Under the direct supervision of UNOCHA, 1,941 Afghans were trained during the first half of 1997. The courses included counter mine training, pre-deployment courses and team leader courses, as well as review courses. Since the beginning of the operation, this programme has provided a total of 663 courses, training 29,058 people.

### 3. Voluntary repatriation

17. Since 1989, some 3.84 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan from the two principal asylum countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Most of these returnees have been assisted by UNHCR in reaching their areas of origin. As of July 1997, 1.4 million Afghan refugees remained in the Islamic Republic of Iran and 1.2 million in Pakistan. The unfavourable political and military developments in Afghanistan have resulted in a decline in repatriation. Other factors such as an absence of income-earning opportunities, a changing refugee profile (landless tenant farmers who have nothing to return to) and a decline in anti-refugee statements from asylum Governments, have also had a bearing on the present low rate of return. During the first six months of 1997, only 40,000 refugees, mostly from Pakistan, had returned to a number of relatively secure areas of Afghanistan.

18. In view of these developments, UNHCR, in consultation with the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, has revised its original 1997 planning figure for repatriation from a total of 350,000 persons to 125,000 (100,000 from Pakistan and 25,000 from the Islamic Republic of Iran). The present repatriation assistance package, which consists of a cash grant and food, will continue to be provided to the returnees, in addition to assistance for transportation to areas of origin.

19. UNHCR offices in the region have introduced an integrated approach that will more closely link assistance to prospective returnees in neighbouring countries. This approach targets potential returnees in the country of asylum, identifies impediments to their return, enhances cooperation with authorities in the countries of origin and concludes with the implementation of projects designed to remove these impediments and support the reintegration of returnees. In this process, the technical expertise and resources of such bodies as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are utilized in the context of the memorandum of understanding concluded between UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

20. The UNHCR task of repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees has been facilitated by the granting of amnesty by the Office of the Chief Justice in Kabul. Amnesty provides guarantees for the basic rights of returnees, including restitution of land and other fixed assets upon return from exile. However, a dramatic increase in the level of return should not be expected given the current political uncertainty. It is therefore important that UNHCR maintain an assistance programme in the countries of asylum. This will support

the fragile degree of self-sufficiency that has been attained, as well as the principles of voluntary repatriation, in the current volatile and unpredictable situation.

## 4. Food aid

21. This year, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to provide food aid for humanitarian relief, comprised of care and maintenance of internally displaced persons, institutional feeding, repatriation assistance to returning refugees and subsidized bread sales through bakery projects.

22. Some 1.4 million Afghans were supported by WFP during 1997, with a total food allocation of 120,000 tons throughout all regions of Afghanistan on the basis of people-oriented, community-based, rehabilitation programmes. The basic objective was to provide life-sustaining food to the poor and vulnerable populations, to support socio-economic recovery and household food security in peaceful areas and to facilitate self-reliant reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons in their places of origin.

23. At the time of writing of the present report, WFP was reaching almost 800,000 of the most vulnerable through its bakery projects in Afghanistan. In Kabul and Jalalabad, these bakery projects were implemented year-round, whereas in Kandahar, Mazar and Faizabad, they operated only in periods of shortage. In April 1997, in response to an acute shortage of wheat flour, the bakery projects were expanded by 25 per cent for several months in many areas of the country.

24. In coordination with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, WFP reached a number of people through its institutional feeding, emergency assistance and repatriation assistance programmes. In addition, WFP extended food aid to approximately 20,000 people in camps for internally displaced persons in Herat and engaged in one-time distributions to displaced persons in the north and in the Kandahar/Helmand area.

25. As a result of the difficulty in reaching women beneficiaries, WFP limited its rehabilitation assistance from a planned 60 per cent of its 1997 food distributions to only 32 per cent, focusing on activities with immediate impact, rather than on those of a longer-term nature. Activities that continue to be supported are life-sustaining projects and/or those directly targeting women. Some of these projects include vocational training and income generating projects for vulnerable people with no source of income, a food-for-seed programme in collaboration with FAO and selected food-for-work programmes in rural and urban areas.

26. Despite restrictions on women's movement and employment, WFP continued to reach women directly through its bakery projects, through institutional feeding and food-for-training, which primarily targeted widows. Bakeries run by women were established in both Kabul and Kandahar. Although food-for-work was performed almost exclusively by men in this traditional society, WFP provided a family ration that reached women and children indirectly. WFP did not provide any assistance through food-for-work in the area of education, an area in which discrimination against women and girls takes place.

## 5. Health

27. During the first half of 1997, WHO and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, implemented two rounds of national immunization days against poliomyelitis, a crippling disease which was responsible for about two thirds of the disabilities in Afghanistan. During this campaign, 3.6 million children aged 5 and under, or 90 per cent of the target population, received two supplementary doses of oral polio vaccine. The campaign covered 310 out of the 330 districts. This unprecedented coverage was made possible by the deployment of over 13,000 health workers, volunteers, teachers, mullahs and community leaders in the organization and conduct of the campaign. All traditional/local dissemination channels, as well as local radio and television programmes, were utilized for social mobilization. A special educational programme through the BBC World Service broadcasted national immunization day messages during the evening Pashto service of the BBC radio. The polio campaign was facilitated by collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, as well as by a period of tranquillity negotiated with the warring factions.

28. WHO provided 12 tons of emergency medical supplies to the eight regional referral hospitals. In addition, 32 tons of essential drugs, equipment and other medical supplies were distributed to all district and provincial health facilities. UNICEF provided essential drugs for basic health centres and selected five provinces for the implementation of primary health care activities. A management team is in place and collection of baseline data is under way. UNICEF also supports the operation of 177 oral rehydration therapy corners at basic health centres to educate mothers on the use of oral rehydration salt and the preparation of wheat salt solutions and other homemade fluids to treat diarrhoea.

29. In the first half of 1997, WHO trained 274 health workers in the prevention and control of major communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, leishmaniasis and rabies. Thirty special training courses for orthopaedic technicians, physiotherapists, anaesthetists and orthopaedic surgeons were organized in five different regions, training 120 health workers. In collaboration with the Kabul Medical Institute and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, WHO conducted a three-month certificate course on district health practice in Jalalabad, successfully training 24 medical doctors representing all regions. During the same period, courses were given by WHO to female health workers in epidemiology and disease control in Jalalabad City. At the time of writing of the present report, UNICEF was training health workers and mid-level managers in rational drug use and drug supply management.

30. WHO also carried out functional and physical rehabilitation of Kunduz Hospital, Sheberghan Provincial Hospital, Kodi Barg Hospital, Mazar Region Hospital and the Jalalabad Regional Hospital. The combined assistance rehabilitated more than 2,000 beds of hospital capacity. Physical and functional rehabilitation of Rabia Bulki Hospital and Malalai Women's Hospital in Kabul and Mulki Women's Hospital in Kandahar are in progress. The projects were co-funded by UNOCHA, UNHCR and WFP, as well as by WHO, the project's lead

implementing agency. UNICEF has also upgraded three regional/provincial coldrooms and rehabilitated the Kabul central coldroom.

31. A priority for WHO, UNICEF and other organizations dealing with health is maternal and child health care. Women and children comprise approximately 70 per cent of the population targeted for assistance. Projects undertaken by WHO include the provision of maternal/child health equipment and supplies to the 45 existing maternal and child health care centres, the training of 24 physicians from all regions of Afghanistan in "safe motherhood", the translation into Dari and printing of the guidelines for emergency obstetric care and essential newborn care, and the training of 130 traditional birth attendants from all regions of the country.

32. To address nutritional needs, a supplemental feeding programme for children under two years of age has been integrated with routine activities under an expanded programme on immunization. UNICEF was providing K-mix II and BP-5 to therapeutic/supplementary centres, feeding centres and other institutions to treat malnourished children. A feasibility study on the iodization of rock salt is being conducted for possible implementation at three main rock salt mines in the northern part of the country. An effective system for control of diarrhoeal diseases, a leading cause of childhood mortality, is being established.

### 6. Water supply and sanitation

33. The need to provide safe drinking water and the improvement of existing sanitation systems remained an urgent priority in rural and urban areas of Afghanistan. The rehabilitation of such infrastructure is necessary for regions that have been affected by the prolonged conflict and are hosting internally displaced persons and receiving and reintegrating returning refugees.

34. WHO, in collaboration with UNHCR, UNOCHA and the World Food Programme, completed the rehabilitation of the Kandahar, Ghazni and Jalalabad water supply systems and the construction of the Faizabad water supply system. More than 635,000 residents now have access to safe drinking water. WHO is also working on water and sanitation projects in Kandahar, Zarange, Jalalabad, Karte-e-Moalimeen and Kunduz provinces.

35. Under the UNDP two-year programme, 1,500 wells and 25,000 cubic metres of water supply structures and 20 kilometres of water supply pipes had been rehabilitated in rural areas as of mid-1997. Water access and sanitation improvements were ensured for an estimated 3 million people in urban areas.

36. Habitat was involved in the construction of flood canals in various districts of Kabul, the construction of stone masonry retaining walls along the Kabul river and support for the city waste management collection system. A series of sanitation system rehabilitation projects was implemented in Mazar and Herat as well. UNICEF, with the support of WHO, UNOCHA, WFP, non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Public Health, is organizing a campaign to create awareness of oral rehydration therapy, sanitation and hygiene education in selected areas.

## 7. Education

37. In response to discriminatory practices imposed by the Taliban, almost all United Nations education projects were suspended or were not implemented. In the northern region, where girls and boys have equal access to education, UNICEF has an innovative teacher training programme to improve classroom teaching methods. In the few Taliban-controlled areas where girls are allowed to attend school, UNICEF continued to support formal and non-formal education programmes for both sexes. One such programme for internally displaced children in Herat, conducted in collaboration with UNHCR and the BBC/Afghan drama project, is the broadcast of vital messages related to education and the rights of children.

38. Since 1995, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been carrying out activities in Afghanistan in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. All programmes are directed at men and women and boys and girls. A management training programme for principals of primary schools is ongoing with Habitat in Mazar. In March 1997, a UNESCO workshop was given in Peshwar, Pakistan, on curriculum design and development of Afghan educationalists. There were 35 participants, 7 of whom were women.

39. In Kandahar province, a United Nations workshop on education was given in April for the Taliban leadership with UNICEF and UNESCO present as technical resources. The seminar's purpose was to inform the Taliban of the current activities and future plans of the United Nations and to identify and understand the desires of the Taliban leadership regarding education. Because of the Tailiban's emphasis on education for boys only, no progress was made.

## 8. Food and agriculture

40. Despite the collapse of rural infrastructure, the destruction of irrigation systems and the presence of mines in prime agricultural land, a number of projects are being implemented to support an increase in overall food production among settled farming communities, nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists, returnees and vulnerable groups. Working collaboratively, FAO, WFP, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services have managed to revitalize food production in Afghanistan. Assistance included the repair of nearly 500 kilometres of feeder roads, which facilitated production and the exchange of goods. Additionally, 5,000 hectares of land were brought back under irrigation.

41. Initially, seed supply came from neighbouring countries. However, since 1995, UNDP has placed great emphasis on in-country production of seeds, which is supervised for quality control. Among other projects, 100 fruit tree nurseries were established, providing sufficient material for nearly 5,000 hectares of orchards. In addition, 180,000 farmers benefited from the production of nearly 8,000 tons of improved wheat seed, resulting in production improvements of more than 50 per cent. FAO and WFP are engaged in a food-for-seeds programme wherein WFP wheat is exchanged for improved seed produced by local farmers in partnership with FAO. These seeds all reprocessed by FAO and sold at subsidized prices to small farmers.

42. Introducing biological and mechanical means, FAO made substantial progress in controlling the locust pest in northern Afghanistan. Also, more than 100 trials on wheat, rice, barley and maize were carried out in various agro-ecological zones to identify high-yield, pest-resistant varieties prior to local multiplication and dissemination.

43. Veterinary units administered 30 million vaccinations. Basic laboratory units have been established to ensure a functioning early-warning system and strategically located mother-stock, while breeding farms ensure a regular and sustainable supply of breeding material. Through UNDP funding, FAO has been running 255 district veterinary units, ensuring 76 per cent coverage of the country. These units are becoming increasingly self-sufficient through the use of a user fee.

### 9. Vulnerable groups

44. As part of its mandate, UNICEF addresses the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances. In Afghanistan, special attention is paid to children affected by the conflict. UNICEF has assessed the nature and prevalence of war-related psychosocial trauma among children in Kabul. Preliminary analysis suggests high levels of exposure to traumatic events and exhibition of traumatic stress reactions among the children. A programme to address needs identified by the study is being planned. UNICEF has also provided support to children living in institutions.

45. UNICEF supported a social credit programme for poor women in northern Afghanistan and a rural women's development programme in Badakhshan. In the eastern region, UNICEF provided small-scale support to a rehabilitation programme for disabled rural women and children. Additionally, small-scale skills training and income-generating activities for vulnerable women are components of some general community development programmes.

## B. Coordination of humanitarian programmes

46. UNOCHA, under the overall responsibility of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, has provided coordination and logistical support for the humanitarian programmes in Afghanistan. The Office also manages the mine clearance programme, the aircraft operation and the radio network, which provides a 24-hour radio link between major United Nations duty stations in Afghanistan.

47. UNOCHA has played a key role in ensuring that proper coordination exists between United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, both international and national.

48. Coordinating bodies of non-governmental organizations have played an important role in providing humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to Afghanistan. The Agency Coordination Body for Afghanistan and the Afghan NGO Coordination Bureau are two such bodies that work in Afghanistan to ensure

coherent coordination of activities undertaken by the hundreds of local and international non-governmental organizations working to improve the lives of the Afghan people.

49. In response to signs of the international community's waning interest in Afghanistan and to ensure the continuity of humanitarian assistance, an international forum was organized to develop a "humanitarian strategy" for Afghanistan. Issues of common concern to the international and local community were discussed at this venue, the International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan, which was held from 24 to 26 January 1997, in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan.

50. A key decision taken at the Forum was to create an assistance strategy for Afghanistan, the first step of which was to merge the functions of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and the United Nations Resident Coordinator into that of a single United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Development Programmes. The strategy is simultaneously to address emergency issues and longer-term needs in order to ensure sustainable development and a sustainable future peace. The Afghanistan Task Force, composed of selected United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, donors and the International Committee of the Red Cross, was also established recently.

51. In order to enhance the momentum created at the Forum, a strategic framework approach is being formulated with inter-agency cooperation. Its principal aim is to provide a comprehensive, coherent relief and development aid strategy. Victims of conflict, civilians, regional and provincial authorities, national non-governmental organizations and international partners working in Afghanistan will have access to invaluable data and information about past and current conditions. In order to develop a shared understanding of the problems and possible solutions, preparations for the formulation of the strategic framework include a comprehensive needs assessment on the impact of the humanitarian tragedy as well as the constraints imposed on the economic, social and developmental prospects for recovery. Some characteristics of the strategic framework will be development of a common strategy towards Afghan authorities, an emphasis on the commitment to international principles and a facilitation of the links between the political and non-political spheres at local and international levels. Four planned major components are likely: demographic considerations, humanitarian concerns, the macroeconomic context and prospects for reconciliation and recovery.

52. On 26 June 1997, the Secretary-General asked the organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate fully in the implementation of policies and measures recommended by the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (see para. 7 above). The principle-based approach recommended by the Executive Committee, envisaged disengagement of United Nations agencies from certain institutional assistance programmes, such as those pertaining to socio-economic infrastructure, community-based activities and institution-building efforts, unless they benefited men and women equally in participation and result. This policy did not apply, however, to life-sustaining humanitarian activities. The Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women was appointed to lead the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan. In parallel with

these efforts, a joint technical committee was established to serve as a mechanism to engage the Taliban in a discussion on gender and other issues relating to assistance programmes and the applicable international standards.

## III. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

53. The rebuilding of rural and urban communities has occupied a predominant position in UNDP strategic objectives for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan. The overall goal of the programme is to rebuild indigenous capacities for recovery through the strengthening of grass-roots community and self-help resources. Through small-scale, high impact interventions at the grass-roots level and enhanced beneficiary participation in development management, equitable and sustainable access to production and social assets and services has improved. The building of private and public sector capacities at the local level to support community-driven rehabilitation and development efforts is also an aspect of the programme.

54. Community development objectives were achieved through the establishment of 74 district shuras (councils) and 420 village shuras. These councils served to identify and set priority needs, and they have participated in the planning and monitoring of projects. Women's community forums were also set up, bringing together 3,600 participants in a wide range of development activities. Forty local community-based rehabilitation committees were established to assist disabled community members.

55. A total of 500 kilometres of feeder roads and 7 kilometres of urban sector roads were rehabilitated. Small bridge and stone step reconstruction benefited an estimated 150,000 people by increasing accessibility to war-damaged neighbourhoods.

56. An estimated 25 per cent of Afghanistan's 2.3 million houses have been damaged or destroyed during the past 19 years of war. Much of the destruction has taken place in cities where informal shelter accounts for one third of urban housing and much communal infrastructure has become obsolete. Habitat, supported by UNDP, has worked on the rehabilitation of housing, public buildings, sanitation and water systems in cities across the country. Focusing on a grass-roots approach, Habitat develops indigenous, urban management capacity. At present, Habitat has offices in Kabul, Mazar and Herat.

57. In Kabul, Habitat has been carrying out a broad range of projects. The core areas of the programme were community support and development, water supply, sanitation and drainage improvements, access improvements, energy, environment and culture. Habitat also supported local government where this would underpin community-led regeneration. Small-scale neighbourhood community rehabilitation projects administered by Habitat directly benefited 7,500 workers. A joint Habitat-OXFAM project, the Bagrami/Logar water supply scheme, indirectly benefited some 400,000 Kabul residents.

58. Working with community organizations, Habitat has undertaken a series of rehabilitation and recovery projects in Mazar and Herat. Activities under the neighbourhood action programme included community development programmes, sanitation research and development, upgrading of main neighbourhood drainage, well drilling and handpump installation, urban tree planting projects and various income-generating projects. Projects under municipal infrastructure repair included access improvements, school rehabilitation, improving municipal drainage, rehabilitation of city piped water supplies, surveying and mapping. In Mazar, a winter relief programme was also undertaken.

59. This year, UNDP launched a programme management information system for aid coordination. This project is expected to create an information management and decision support system, within the framework of a longer-term strategy to strengthen the aid community's capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate humanitarian, emergency and development assistance to Afghanistan in a coordinated manner. This was identified as a priority at the International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan in January 1997.

60. In April 1997, UNDP, with the support of the other United Nations agencies concerned, launched the PEACE (Poverty Eradication and Community Empowerment) Initiative. This programme aims at restoring a sense of security by rebuilding indigenous capacities and commitment to recovery; by strengthening social integration, focusing on the needs of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups; and by building democratic institutions from the bottom up.

## IV. DRUG CONTROL

61. Afghanistan is one of the two largest producers of illicit opium in the world. In the United Nations International Drug Control Programme 1996 survey, it was estimated that around 57,000 hectares were under poppy cultivation generating over $60 million in annual income for approximately 200,000 farmers. On 11 November 1996, the Taliban Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a note declaring their opposition to the production, processing, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs.

62. The Programme has developed a drug control strategy and an integrated four year programme of assistance (1997-2000) comprising the following modules: capacity building for drug control, drug control monitoring system, poppy crop reduction, demand reduction support and law enforcement.

63. During the first half of 1997, the Programme continued its support to the existing drug control institutions such as the Nangahar Drug Control and Development Unit established through Programme support in 1995, and the State High Commission for Drug Control in Kabul. For the fourth consecutive year, The Programme conducted an opium poppy survey in 18 provinces. According to this year's survey released in September, opium poppy production in Afghanistan rose to 2,800 tons in 1997, an estimated 25 per cent increase over 1996. The increase was likely due to favourable weather conditions and improved methods of cultivation. The report also indicated that 96.4 per cent of Afghanistan's total opium production originated in provinces currently under Taliban control.

64. A participatory planning process was initiated by the Programme in selected districts of Kandahar and Nangahar. Village, district and provincial authorities are involved in this exercise, which aims at establishing provincial drug control action plans. A package of assistance would be made available under the condition that a progressive ban on poppy cultivation was being imposed by the respective authorities.

65. In 1996, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) took part in the execution of the Programme's project on monitoring of opium cultivation in Afghanistan. At the time of writing of the present report, UNIDO was implementing another United Nations International Drug Control Programme project regarding industrial opportunities in Kandahar and Nangahar provinces. The project aims at identifying competitive opportunities for the development of agro-based industries to enhance employment and income-generation in rural areas in lieu of opium cultivation.

## V. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER STATES

66. Listed hereunder are financial contributions from Member States towards the emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes in Afghanistan. The list covers only those contributions which have been reported by the respective Member States for the purpose of the present report. A financial table is attached as an annex to the present report for figures reported through the Inter-Agency Support Branch of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

67. The Government of Austria contributed 56,327.94 schillings for medical aid, $4,694 for relief and food security, and S 200,000 for demining in Afghanistan.

68. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contributed 6,990,000 pounds sterling to United Nations agencies and a wide variety of non-governmental organizations, to be directed primarily towards income-generation, reintegration of refugees, agricultural rehabilitation, water and sanitation, mine clearance, health, education and coordination.

69. The Government of Egypt provided $55,000 for medicine and medical equipment and $100,000 for university scholarships. These contributions were made in 1996.

70. The Government of Ireland donated 150,000 Irish pounds to WFP for emergency food distribution; £Ir 60,888.00 for drainage and flood prevention in Kabul; and £Ir 41,978.00, channelled through a non-governmental organization for building a canal in Farah province.

71. The Government of Italy provided financial assistance in the amount of 1 billion lira to ICRC for a programme of orthopaedic rehabilitation for war victims.

72. The Government of Luxembourg contributed 10 million Luxembourg francs to ICRC for humanitarian relief and 6 million Lux F to WHO for medical assistance.

73. The contribution of the Government of Sweden for 1997 totalled 79 million Kronor. Primary implementors have been the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNOCHA, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP.

## VI. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

74. Against the background of an unpredictable political and military situation in Afghanistan, where daily clashes continued around Kabul and in certain strategic regions, while other areas remained relatively calm, humanitarian relief assistance remains critical for the survival of the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict in this country, a country that is neither fully at war nor entirely at peace. A political settlement is essential if the work undertaken by the aid agencies is to have a sustained impact in the longer term. In the meantime, with the oncoming winter season and likely worsening of the humanitarian situation, there is an urgent need to respond immediately to those who are most in need.

75. The challenges faced by the various organizations working in Afghanistan have underlined the importance of strong coordination among the humanitarian, development, political and other partners, both national and international. From the International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan to the strategic framework approach, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donors has improved, indeed increased, this year. The formulation of a strategic framework is expected to create a better and more comprehensive understanding of the problems faced in Afghanistan. A consensus on these understandings is expected to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes and help consolidate the United Nations system-wide approach for longer-term solutions.

76. Security in Afghanistan, in particular in the main cities, still requires close monitoring and has raised serious concerns. In one instance, on 29 May, following repeated raids on United Nations buildings and increased street fighting and anti-foreign sentiment, 65 international aid workers, journalists, and foreign consul staff had to be evacuated under the coordination of the United Nations. In September 1997, the United Nations and its partners were once again compelled to suspend temporarily humanitarian operations in the Mazar-i-Sharif region owing to looting of their premises and armed clashes in the streets of Mazar-i-Sharif. Such events severely hinder the genuine efforts of the international community to help the hundreds of thousands of Afghan people who depend on external assistance.

77. The Taliban policy towards women's access to work and girls' access to education has hampered the implementation of a number of humanitarian activities and continues to be a matter of deep concern. It is hoped that the principles adopted by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners will allow relief and rehabilitation programmes to go forward which fully respect the rights of women.

78. The Secretary-General calls upon the international community to continue to provide generous voluntary contributions in support of the humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance programmes in Afghanistan in order to maintain essential activities provided by the organizations of the United Nations system working to enhance the welfare of and promote a brighter future for the people of Afghanistan.

Annex I

**Pledges/contributions made in response to the various sectors of the 1997 consolidated appeal for assistance as of 26 September 1997**

(United States dollars)

| Country | Relief and food security | Mine clearance | Reintegration of refugees | Primary health care[a] | Rural recovery | Urban recovery | Water and sanitation | Shelter | Disabled persons | Education and training[a] | Coordination and relief management support | Unearmarked contributions | Total | Drug control |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | | 378 000 | | 10 040 | | | 313 313 | | | | | | 701 353 | |
| Austria | 15 793 | 16 667 | | 44 536 | | | | | | | | | 76 996 | |
| Canada | [b] | 726 190 | 739 000 | 730 000 | | | | | | | 253 820 | | 2 449 009 | |
| Egypt | | | | 44 500[c] | | | | | | | | | 44 500 | |
| European Union | | 2 261 364 | | 1 617 361 | | | | | | | | | 3 878 725 | |
| Finland | | | 553 506 | | | | | | | | | | 553 506 | |
| France | [d] | | | | | | 1 156 069 | | | | | | 3 449 667 | |
| Germany | 293 598 | 2 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 887 574 | 700 000 |
| Italy | | | 867 574 | 1 000 000[e] | | | | | | | | | 382 539 | |
| Ireland | 226 929 | | | | | | 155 610 | | | | | | 1 000 000 | |
| Japan | [f] | 1 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | 339 806 | |
| Luxembourg | | | | 339 806 | | | | | | 161 947 | 466 925 | | 8 208 861 | 263 158 |
| Netherlands[g] | 1 131 579 | 2 530 993 | 529 101 | 1 315 790 | 2 070 526 | | | | | | | | 1 958 106 | 211 864 |
| Norway | | 1 508 106 | 450 000 | | | | | | | | 208 333 | | 5 013 770 | |
| Sweden | 833 333 | 2 500 000 | 651 042 | 821 061 | | | | | | | | | 4 444 | |
| Switzerland | | | | 4 444 | | | | | | | 2 419 355 | | 6 618 164 | 3 083 150 |
| United Kingdom | [h] | 1 209 677 | 1 290 323 | 1 077 842 | 446 774 | | 174 194 | | | | | | | |
| United States of America | | 2 000 000[i] | 1 500 000 | 1 000 | | | | | | | | 500 000 | 4 001 000 | 1 600 000 |
| Total cash | 2 501 232 | 16 130 997 | 6 600 546 | 7 006 380 | 2 517 300 | | 1 799 186 | | | 161 947 | 3 350 433 | 500 000 | 40 568 021 | 5 838 172 |
| Total in-kind | 2 348 387 | 1 011 111 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 359 498 | |
| Grand total | 4 849 619 | 17 142 108 | 6 600 546 | 7 006 380 | 2 517 300 | | 1 799 186 | | | 161 947 | 3 350 433 | 500 000 | 43 927 519 | 5 838 172 |
| Funds requested in the appeal | 10 676 075 | 22 166 000 | 28 101 000 | 20 373 705 | 15 245 897 | 5 178 000 | 12 563 025 | 2 883 740 | 1 521 000 | 6 593 340 | 7 707 410 | | 133 009 192 | |

[a] UNICEF requests for primary health care have been increased by $1,500,000 while UNICEF requests for education and training have been reduced by $1,500,000

[b] In-kind pledge of wheat (valued at US$ 9,500,000), against WFP request for food inputs

[c] For procurement of medicines and medical tools

[d] In-kind pledge of 8,000 tons of wheat (valued at $2,000,000), against WFP request for food inputs (not against the appeal)

[e] Including secondment of two medical doctors

[f] In-kind pledge of food aid (valued at $9,600,000), against WFP request for food inputs

[g] Pledged f. 159,600 ($84,000) to cover part of the expenditures of International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Ashqabad, Turkmenistan on 21 and 22 January 1997, and f. 161,880 ($87,502.70) to the International Centre for Humanitarian Reporting for Afghan Handbook (not against the appeal)

[h] Including an in-kind pledge of 5,000 tons of food aid (valued at $2,348,387.09)

[i] Including $1,000,000 in-kind pledge through FMS programme

Annex II

Funding to the 1997 consolidated appeal for assistance to Afghanistan: updated financial summary as of 26 September 1997

(United States dollars)

| | | Pledges/contributions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appealing organization | Total appeal requirements | Australia | Austria | Canada | Denmark | Egypt | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Nether-lands[a] | Norway | Sweden | Switzer-land | United Kingdom | United States of America | Total funds available | Shortfall | Appeal requirements covered (percentage) |
| FAO | 4 776 075 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 776 075 | 0.00 |
| UNCHS | 12 473 540 | 313 313 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 313 313 | 12 160 227 | 2.51 |
| UNDP | 2 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 000 000 | 0.00 |
| UNESCO | 93 800 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 93 800 | 0.00 |
| UNHCR | 26 726 000 | | | 739 000 | | | | 553 506 | | | | 887 574 | | | 529 101 | 450 000 | 651 042 | 4 444 | 1 290 323 | 1 500 000 | 6 604 990 | 20 121 010 | 24.71 |
| UNICEF | 10 005 403 | 10 040 | 44 536 | 730 000 | | | 572 361 | | | | | 1 000 000[b] | | 167 382 | 1 315 790 | | 809 061 | | [illegible] 777 | | 5 116 957 | 4 888 446 | 51.16 |
| UNOCHA | 27 126 000 | 376 000 | | 950 008 | | | | | | 2 000 000 | | | 1 000 000 | | 2 928 865 | 1 506 136 | 2 719 444 | | 3 225 806 | 3 500 000[c] | 16 240 230 | 8 885 770 | 67.24 |
| UNOPS | 2 947 500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 736 842 | | | | | | 736 842 | 2 210 658 | 25.00 |
| UNOPS/ Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme | 1 521 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 521 000 | 0.00 |
| WFP | 5 000 000 | | | [d] | | | | | [e] | | 226 929 | | [f] | | 1 052 632 | | 833 333 | | 2 348 387[g] | | 4 461 281 | 538 719 | 89.23 |
| WHO | 8 523 789 | | | | | 44 500 | | | | | | | | 172 414 | | | | | 322 581 | | 539 495 | 7 984 295 | 6.33 |
| Team working group[h] | 6 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 000 000 | |
| Non-governmental organizations | 25 816 085 | | 32 459 | | | | 3 306 364 | | | 1 449 667 | 155 610 | | | | 1 545 631 | | 12 000 | | 1 309 677 | 1 000 | 7 912 408 | 17 903 677 | 30.65 |
| Total | 133 009 192 | 701 353 | 76 995 | 2 449 009 | | 44 500 | 3 878 725 | 553 506 | | 3 449 667 | 382 539 | 1 887 574 | 1 000 000 | 339 806 | 8 208 861 | 1 956 136 | 5 024 880 | 4 444 | 8 906 551 | 5 001 000 | 43 927 516 | 89 081 677 | 33.03 |
| UNDCP | | | | | | | | | | | | 700 000 | | | 263 158 | 211 864 | | | 3 083 150 | 1 600 000 | 5 838 172 | | |
| ICRC/IFRC[i] | 42 710 444 | | | 1 100 000 | 1 367 781 | | | 388 360 | | | | 591 716 | | 287 356 | 3 078 947 | | 1 954 023 | | 806 452 | | 9 574 625 | | 22.42 |

[a] Pledged f 159,600 ($84,000) to cover part of the expenditures of the IFAA, held in Ashqabad, Turkmenistan, on 21 and 22 January 1997, and f 161,880 ($87,502.70) to the International Centre for Humanitarian Reporting for Afghan Handbook (not against the appeal)

[b] Including secondment of two medical doctors.

[c] Including an in-kind pledge of $1,000,000 through the FMS programme.

[d] In-kind pledge of wheat (valued at $9,500,000), against WFP request for food inputs.

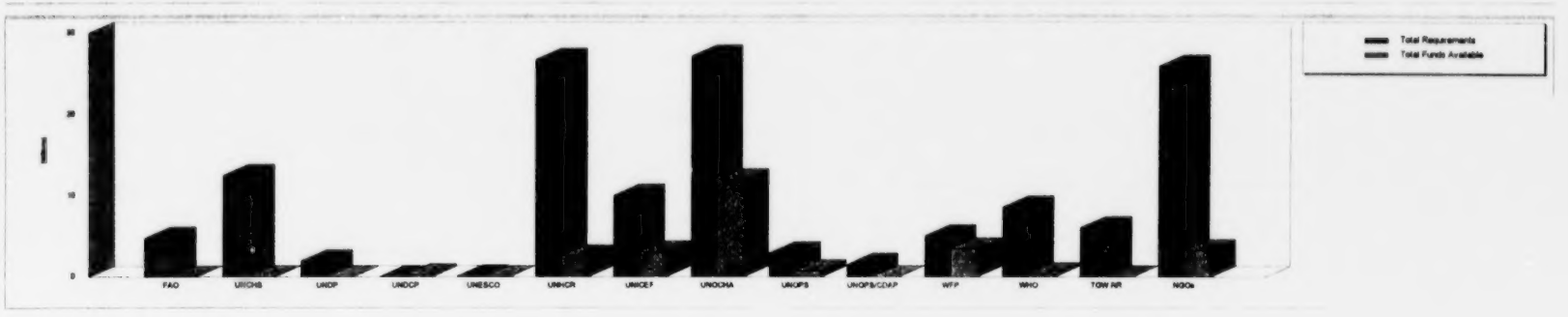
[e] In-kind pledge of 8,000 tons of wheat (valued at $2,000,000) against WFP request for food inputs.

[f] In-kind pledge of food aid (valued at $9,800,000), against WFP request for food inputs.

[g] Including an in-kind pledge of 5,000 tons of food aid (valued at $2,348,387.09).

[h] A team of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations submitted a joint project proposal for rural rehabilitation in western Afghanistan.

[i] According to information provided by donors.



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# STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Secretary-General

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 50/134 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly, expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects of the Chernobyl disaster on the lives and health of people, particularly children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, declared 26 April 1996 International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, and invited Member States to conduct appropriate activities to commemorate that tragic event and to enhance public awareness of the consequences of such disasters for human health and the environment throughout the world. Further, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of resolution 50/134 at its fifty-second session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. The present report describes the action undertaken during the period 1996-1997 by the United Nations and its funds and programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as other entities in order to address the diverse and far-reaching consequences of the accident. It also highlights the findings of the international conferences held in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the disaster, and those of the inter-agency needs assessment mission which visited the affected areas in 1997. Finally, it presents recommendations for future action to improve, in the long-term, the quality of life of those affected.

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## II. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

3. Marking the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident on 26 April 1996, a number of initiatives were undertaken with the aim of drawing conclusions concerning the consequences of the accident and assessing the impact of relief action undertaken on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. An international conference on the health consequences of the Chernobyl and other radiological accidents was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Geneva from 20 to 23 November 1995; a conference on the consequences of the Chernobyl accide..., jointly organized by the European Commission and the Governments of the three countries most affected, was held at Minsk from 18 to 22 March 1996. A major international conference on the theme "One decade after Chernobyl: summing up the consequences of the accident", which was co-sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), WHO and the European Commission, took place at Vienna from 8 to 12 April 1996. That conference was preceded by an international forum on nuclear safety aspects, organized by IAEA and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and was held at IAEA headquarters from 1 to 3 April 1996. The forum addressed in particular the remedial measures taken since the accident to improve the safety of Chernobyl-type reactors, of the containment structure built around the destroyed reactor, and of the site itself.

4. The international conference held at Vienna in particular resulted in new and tangible proposals to reduce human suffering and to increase the capacity of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to cope with the long-term effects of the accident. The participating organizations and experts presented the results of their research work and the relevant action taken with respect to the activity of radioactive material released; the deposit of this material on the earth and in particular the territories of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; the level of radiation doses received by the recovery workers and the population; the clinically observed effects attributable to radiation exposure; the increase in the incidence of thyroid cancer; longer-term health effects (e.g., concerns about leukaemia) and the need to improve cancer and mortality registries; the socio-psychological effects; the environmental consequences for animals, plants, forests, water resources and essential foodstuffs; the social, economic, institutional and political impact; and the nuclear safety issues linked with the remaining term of operation of the Chernobyl units and the stabilization of the existing sarcophagus. The Conference resulted in recommendations for future activities and its findings have been widely disseminated.

5. In April 1996, the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, attended a two-day round-table meeting at Kiev, together with the ministers from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine responsible for Chernobyl matters. Attended also by representatives of United Nations agencies, several Western Governments and donor organizations, the meeting focused on the rehabilitation of the exclusion zone and the creation of an international research centre on nuclear safety at Chernobyl. The United Nations Coordinator also chaired a meeting of the Quadripartite Ministerial-level Committee for Coordination on Chernobyl at United Nations Headquarters on 6 December 1996, which considered ways to revitalize the efforts of the international community

to address the consequences of the catastrophe beyond the tenth anniversary commemoration.

6. It was agreed that a United Nations inter-agency assessment mission, led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, should be sent to areas of the three countries most affected by the accident in order to determine current needs with regard to continued assistance by the international community. At the meeting, the Government of the Netherlands announced a pledge of 1 million guilders towards projects for the victims of the Chernobyl accident in the three countries.

## III. UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION TO AREAS OF BELARUS, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE AFFECTED BY THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, 20-26 MAY 1997

7. The inter-agency needs assessment team was composed of representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), IAEA, WHO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The United Nations/United Nations Development Programme offices at Kiev, Minsk and Moscow were actively involved in the preparatory steps and participated in meetings with the national authorities. The mission examined problems resulting directly or indirectly from the Chernobyl accident. It was not, however, mandated to address issues of nuclear safety, on-site problems or those of the sarcophagus, or general economic issues. The mission focused on balancing real radiological risks against economic, social and psychological problems, and generating together with the authorities of the concerned countries realistic projects with a high likelihood of success, leading to measurable improvements in the current conditions under which the population was living.

8. The team's appraisal of the situation in the three countries underscored the need for further substantial assistance in the following main programme areas:

(a) Health. Further assistance is necessary to strengthen health-monitoring activities at the local, regional and national levels. An increased incidence of thyroid cancer, and of leukaemia to a certain degree, was reported. Thyroid cancers, for example, have already increased 285 times over pre-Chernobyl levels and are not expected to peak until the period 2005-2010. Increased incidence of other cancers that have long incubation periods can also be linked to the disaster, although these links have not yet been substantiated. Recovery workers or liquidators, however, have already experienced higher morbidity rates. Similarly, illness rates among the inhabitants of mildly contaminated areas are higher than those of the overall population. Intensive specialized medical care is required for the population which was exposed to radiation and for those who are living in contaminated areas. This includes the acquisition of equipment for hospitals and the delivery of mobile stations for permanent diagnostic control of the population living in contaminated regions.

Special activities are required for the registration and continued medical treatment of the liquidators in the three countries concerned;

(b) Socio-psychological rehabilitation. The socio-psychological rehabilitation of the effected population is a priority area requiring increased and more intensive activities in all three countries. The nature and seriousness of the psychological distress that has emerged, and its impact on people's physical health, are striking. Beyond the fear, hopelessness and social withdrawal which are the most frequent and visible consequences, numerous non-specific pathologies, such as asthenia, headaches, anorexia, depression and so forth, which, although not specifically caused by radiation, relate closely to the impact of confined living conditions resulting from caesium contamination of residential areas, are also frequent, in particular among displaced persons. It is proposed to strengthen existing socio-psychological centres and to create new ones with extended terms of reference, in order to generate initiatives in the economic field, at the local level;

(c) Environment. A number of environmental issues also deserve serious attention, in view of their ongoing and long-term threat to the health of the population. Issues in this sector include radiation protection, decontamination measures, agricultural and forestry issues, and contamination of water resources. In a nuclear disaster, it is not just the immediate damage inflicted that is of concern. A contaminated environment is a reservoir of future health risks and stifled economic productivity. Radioactivity entering the food chain and water systems will remain a serious problem in the coming decades, and is unlikely to restrict itself geographically. Recently, fish as far afield as Hungary were found to contain unacceptable levels of radiation, the origin of which was almost certainly Chernobyl. Clean food production and control of radionuclide contamination is an immediate and obvious concern. There are several notable problems associated with the forest industry, including the safe management of radioactive forests and forest products and the problems of people living in and around forests. Issues that need to be addressed also include ensuring worker safety, reducing the risk of forest fires and controlling the consumption of wild forest foods;

(d) Socio-economic questions. Emphasis was placed on employment problems, and on the need to create commercial and investment possibilities in view of the deployment of economic activities away from the affected areas. Efforts in this area must include the creation of commercial infrastructure, and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship skills, such as through business incubator facilities. Investment promotion should be supported by appropriate legislative acts;

(e) Information. Finally, the mission team received many indications of the need to review the information policies of the countries concerned in order to create trust and to communicate better with the population regarding the effects of the accident on their health and its impact on their daily lives, as well as to involve them more in the development of future plans and actions of the authorities and of the international community. The United Nations, with support from Governments, can assist in developing a new information policy.

9. The members of the mission team evaluated project proposals received during the mission and selected a number of projects. These projects will be presented for consideration at an international conference on Chernobyl in November 1997.

## IV. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER THE DISASTER AND RELEVANT COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS DURING 1996-1997

10. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has continued to maintain close cooperation with funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system and with regional and other relevant organizations working on Chernobyl matters. Many have undertaken specific actions and projects concerning Chernobyl, and where funds are available, are continuing or intensifying their efforts on the basis of the United Nations needs assessment mission.

11. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has reported that a new socio-psychological rehabilitation centre is being established at Gagarin, Smolensk Oblast, Russian Federation, as a result of the additional contributions made by the Government of the Netherlands. There are now 10 such centres in the three affected countries.

12. The United Nations Children's Fund has prepared a new action plan which will cover the iodine deficiencies of the population, provide support to several national non-governmental organizations and will also address the reform of the health systems in the three countries, as well as social and psychological actions for the population.

13. The World Health Organization is preparing the implementation of a follow-up programme to the International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident, which will include a thyroid project, an accident recovery workers project, a study on dose reconstruction, and research on socio-psychological effects. Subsequent to the United Nations needs assessment mission, a regional project has also been conceived. The World Health Organization has received a substantial contribution towards this new project, under the Netherlands grant.

14. On the basis of the findings of the United Nations assessment mission, UNIDO has stressed that a new economic development strategy is required to assist the population in revitalizing economic activities. Institutional support is necessary in order to extend the activities of economic development agencies into communities and to create favourable legal conditions for promoting locally available raw materials and agricultural resources. The Organization has reiterated its willingness to apply its expertise in this field should funds be made available.

15. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported that some 1.4 million hectares in Belarus are still unsuitable for food production as a result of caesium-137 and strontium-90 contamination. The country must import almost all of its required lubricant and fuel oils, and FAO proposes an alternative use of that land by growing oilseeds for the production of lubricants and possibly biofuels. Studies have shown that oil from rapeseed

grown in these areas is essentially free of radionuclides and suitable activities were selected in field trials. Plans for an operational plant for the production of a chainsaw lubricant are being prepared; the lubricant should be test marketed in late 1997. In Ukraine, FAO has begun advising on ways to reduce the internal radiation exposure of the population through the effective control and reduction of radionuclides in dairy products, with a main activity focusing around a milk-processing plant 80 kilometres west of Chernobyl. The United States of America has financed, bilaterally, the installation of a process for removing Cs-137 and Sr-90 from milk. In cooperation with IAEA, FAO will develop a manual of detailed procedures for the implementation of countermeasures in agriculture and related industries in the event of radionuclide contamination.

16. The United Nations Environment Programme has emphasized the need for appropriate management and sustainable use of radiation-polluted forests. Over six million hectares of forests are considered contaminated, leading to restrictions on forest operations and the use of wood. Forests may also be a source of secondary contamination of other areas when forest fires occur. The most pressing problem in all three affected countries is the maintenance of those forests in a stable condition, and to this end an efficient technology for reforestation and cultivation must be elaborated, together with a long-term management strategy allowing a maximum economic, social and ecological contribution to society. This appraisal of the situation and of future action is shared by the Economic Commission for Europe which has cooperated with UNEP in the preparation of a new regional project on forest management as a follow-up to the United Nations assessment mission.

17. The International Atomic Energy Agency is continuing its activities and studies in such key areas as: creation of an international nuclear information system; problems of migration of radionuclide contaminants in soils, forests and lakes; training for the safe operation and management of nuclear power plants; radiation monitoring and protection and radioactive waste management; and reduction of internal radiation doses to the population. It is also preparing a software package on the management of contaminated forests and forestry products.

18. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation is evaluating the effect of exposure and the health of local populations and will review, along with epidemiological results, the doses received by individuals at the time of the accident and in subsequent years. The next report of the Committee is expected in 2000.

19. The activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) centre around regional and global arrangements for the provision of products for environmental emergency response in the event of future nuclear incidents.

20. The World Bank is involved in lending programmes for the development of new energies through the promotion of conventional power generation.

21. In addition to organizations of the United Nations system, a number of other entities are also actively working on Chernobyl matters, mostly focusing on issues of nuclear safety.

22. The activities of the European Commission are principally handled by its Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) programme and focus on nuclear safety issues, providing assistance in the upgrading of nuclear reactors in the region and improving the safety culture in all sectors of civilian use of nuclear energy. The closure of the Chernobyl plant requires new efforts towards the reform of the energy sector as a whole in Ukraine. Technical work is being conducted to assess the technological and financial implications, as well as the social impact of the closure, in particular for the town of Slavutich. Work on a new reactor enclosure, the decommissioning of the remaining reactor units, measures to cope with radioactive waste and other subjects are also under study. Other important activities include studies on the health, genetic and environmental impacts of radioactive contamination. In particular, studies of thyroid cancer and other disorders in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States affected by the Chernobyl accident have been initiated. The TACIS programme has also launched a study programme on measures to improve public information in the Chernobyl-affected regions.

23. Based on a memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of Ukraine, the Group of Seven and the European Union in December 1995, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is also involved in preparations leading to the decommissioning of the plant and to other nuclear safety measures at Chernobyl. Funds to be made available for these purposes amount to US$ 350 million. They are shared among the Nuclear Safety Account of EBRD, the TACIS programme and other bilateral donors. The Nuclear Safety Account has announced that a first grant of 118 million European currency units will be made to the Ukrainian authorities. This grant comprises the provision of an interim spent-fuel facility to permit the safe storage of spent-fuel assemblies, the provision of a liquid radioactive waste-treatment facility and safety measures for Unit 3 for the implementation of safety improvements prior to closure. According to further information from the Nuclear Safety Account, it was agreed at the Denver Summit of Eight that an additional US$ 735 million would be allocated for measures concerning the safety of the sarcophagus.

24. The Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has reported on its studies and publications of the impact of the accident, on population exposure and potential risks still existing and on environmental and agricultural consequences. Other issues addressed are radiation protection infrastructures and emergency preparedness.

25. Appeals have been launched by IFRC for increasing the number of screenings by ultrasound of thyroid cancer in children, by using mobile diagnosis laboratories. Further planned action includes the monitoring of gamma radiation in the most affected areas, and the distribution of milk powder and micro-nutrients. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies plans to develop, in cooperation with UNESCO, a socio-psychological programme for affected communities. A grant from the contribution of the Government of the Netherlands, which was channelled by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs through the United Nations Chernobyl Trust Fund, has been provided to IFRC.

## V. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE THEME "CHERNOBYL AND BEYOND: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS"

26. In May 1997, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs organized, in cooperation with the Government of the Russian Federation, an international seminar on the theme "Chernobyl and beyond: humanitarian assistance to victims of technological disasters". Participants included representatives of Governments, international organizations and the media, as well as scientists, lawyers and academics. Drawing on the experiences of Chernobyl and a number of other technological disasters, the seminar resulted in recommendations relevant to the overall strategy of assistance on Chernobyl. It also outlined a methodology for addressing the life cycle of technological disasters, ranging from risk reduction and prevention measures and assessing the specific needs of those affected when a disaster strikes, to the response itself and its effective coordination. A comprehensive report on the seminar is being widely disseminated.

27. With regard to Chernobyl, the seminar recommended a shift in perspective towards strengthening primary health care in the affected regions and improving the prevention, detection and treatment of illnesses, regardless of whether they are directly attributable to radiation, a finding which was strongly supported by the inter-agency assessment team. This means that assistance should not be delayed by the desire for a clear-cut aetiology when faced with the distinct problem of a severely declining quality of life for vast numbers of people. The fact that technology is at the root of the disaster does not make their suffering any more abstract.

28. The seminar also recognized the dominant role that non-governmental organizations play in providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of Chernobyl and recommended that recipient Governments strengthen their direct contacts with non-governmental organizations, and exempt them from tax and other administrative obstacles. The study of the applicability of international insurance schemes to compensate potential victims in the event of nuclear accidents, as well as important legislation to help minimize their likelihood, were the subject of other recommendations.

29. With regard to economic problems, recommendations emphasized the need for self-sustaining mechanisms and outlined ways for the specific involvement of the private sector in economic rehabilitation. It was also recommended that the socio-psychological rehabilitation centres create business incubators to cultivate self-reliance and entrepreneurial skills.

## VI. PROJECTS FOR CHERNOBYL-RELATED RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND DECADE

30. In the light of the findings of the United Nations inter-agency needs assessment mission, many of which were reinforced by the outcome of the above-mentioned seminar, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs has, in close cooperation with the competent authorities of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, evaluated project proposals received during or subsequent to the

mission. During selection, emphasis was placed on the need for clear objectives, identifying the counterparts involved and the precise financial requirements and, where possible, on regionally-oriented projects.

31. On that basis, approximately 40 project proposals were selected in the following main sectors of activity:

(a) Minimization of the health consequences of the accident, including one project relating to the recovery workers (15 projects);

(b) Socio-psychological rehabilitation (8 projects);

(c) Environmental issues, including forest activities in the three countries, and agriculture (10 projects);

(d) Economic rehabilitation of the affected areas (12 projects);

(e) New information strategy, a regional project covering the three countries.

32. Wherever possible, references have been included in the project descriptions to previous activities undertaken in the area and to the results achieved. Donor institutions potentially interested in funding the new activities have also been flagged.

33. At the meeting of the Quadripartite Ministerial-level Committee for Coordination on Chernobyl held on 6 December 1996, it was agreed that these project proposals would be the focus of an international conference on Chernobyl to which Governments, funding institutions, international organizations, other governmental or non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies would be invited. The conference would be held to coincide with the consideration of the item on Chernobyl by the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session. Together, these projects form an inter-agency programme of international assistance to Chernobyl-affected areas, constituting an appeal to the international community for continued assistance to the affected populations of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine for the second decade after the Chernobyl catastrophe.

## VII. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

34. It is hoped that the international community will respond promptly and generously to this new appeal and pledge cash and/or in-kind contributions, whether to the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl, directly to implementing agencies or on a bilateral basis, in order to ensure the fullest possible implementation of the proposed programme to mitigate the many lingering effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The various projects, most of which call for a relatively modest level of funding, would help bring quick and tangible relief to the many people who have been afflicted by the Chernobyl disaster in various ways. Some of the projects are also intended to help reduce the grave risks posed to future generations in the region. Most significantly, the implementation of the programme would translate into positive action the resolve and commitment expressed in so many United Nations resolutions on Chernobyl but, most regrettably, remaining until now, largely unfulfilled.

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